



## Legislative Bulletin.....October 1, 2007

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### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$30 million in FY 2008 and \$208 million over the FY 2008 through FY 2012 period.

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 1

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

**H.Con.Res. 185 — Commending the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard upon its completion of the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom (*Walz, D-MN*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 185 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 185 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “commends the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard upon its completion of the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom;
- “recognizes the achievements of the members of the 1st Brigade Combat Team and their exemplary service to the United States; and
- “directs the Clerk of the House to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard for appropriate display.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard, known as the Red Bull Division, is headquartered in Bloomington, Minnesota, and is made up of some 3,700 hard-working and courageous Minnesotans and some 1,300 more soldiers from other Midwestern States;
- “the 1st Brigade Combat Team was most recently mobilized in September 2005 and departed for Iraq in March 2006;
- “the 1st Brigade Combat Team recently completed the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom;
- “the 1st Brigade Combat Team helped start two Iraqi newspapers that provide news to the local population and publish stories on reconstruction progress;
- “the 1st Brigade Combat Team and its members are now returning to the United States to loving families and a grateful nation; and
- “the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division has performed admirably and courageously, putting service to country over personal interests and gaining the gratitude and respect of Minnesotans, Midwesterners, and all Americans.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 185 was introduced on July 13, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. On August 8, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.R. 2779 — To recognize the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national museum of Navy SEALs and their predecessors (*Mahoney, D-FL*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2779 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2779 would officially recognize the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, located at 3300 North A1A, North Hutchinson Island, in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national museum of Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The location recognized as the birthplace of the Navy Frogmen, where thousands of brave volunteers were trained as members of Naval Combat Demolition Units and Underwater Demolition Teams during World War II, is now home to the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum;
- “The Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the Navy SEALs and its predecessors, including the Underwater Demolition Teams, Naval Combat Demolition Units, Office of Strategic Services Maritime Units, and Amphibious Scouts and Raiders;
- “The Navy UDT-SEAL Museum finances, operations, and collections are managed by UDT-SEAL Museum Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization governed by current and former SEALs and UDTs; and
- “The State of Florida, St. Lucie County, Florida, thousands of private donors, and philanthropic organizations have contributed millions of dollars to build, restore, and expand the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum.”

**Additional Information:** For more information about the UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, [click here](#).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2779 was introduced on June 19, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. On June 28, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Readiness, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 2779 was not available as of press time.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Report citing specific Constitutional authority was not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific powers* granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H. Res. 691 — Commending the Wings Over Houston Airshow for its great contribution to the appreciation, understanding, and future of the United States Armed Forces, the City of Houston, Texas, and Ellington Field (*Lampson, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 691 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 691 would express that the House of Representatives “commends the Wings Over Houston Airshow for its great contribution to the appreciation, understanding, and future of the United States Armed Forces, the City of Houston, Texas, and Ellington Field.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “for 23 years the all-volunteer Gulf Coast Wing and West Houston Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force has performed in the Wings Over Houston Airshow at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas;
- “tens of thousands of people from southeast Texas and all over the United States attend the event each year and experience the unique opportunity to see the United States Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard perform and to meet service members of the past and present;
- “the Wings Over Houston Airshow has helped to increase awareness and appreciation for the United States Armed Forces and its active duty members and veterans;
- “the Wings Over Houston Scholarship Program has promoted the importance of math and science education by helping southeast Texas students pursue college educations in the fields of aviation and aerospace.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 691 was introduced on September 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H. Res. 640 — Honoring the sacrifices and commitments of the men, women, and families of the United States Transportation Command, and for other purposes (*Costello, D-IL*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 640 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 640 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “honors the sacrifices and commitment of the approximately 155,000 men and women who comprise the United States Transportation Command, including active and reserve components, civilian employees, and contractors;
- “honors the families of the United States Transportation Command and their sacrifices while their loved ones are deployed around the world;
- “owes the men, women, and families of the Transportation Command a debt of gratitude; and
- “honors the achievements of the Transportation Command during the global war on terrorism.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “October 1, 2007, marks the 20th anniversary of the activation of the Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;
- “the assigned responsibilities of the Transportation Command include providing common-user and commercial transportation, terminal management, aerial refueling, global patient movement, and serving as the mobility joint force provider;
- “after terrorist attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and wounded thousands on September 11, 2001, the Transportation Command became a vital asset in the global war on terrorism, supporting members of the Armed Forces in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and around the world; and
- “from October 2001 to September 2007, the Transportation Command, its components, and its national partners have transported approximately 4,000,000 passengers, 9,000,000 short tons of cargo, and over 4,000,000,000,000 gallons of fuel in support of the global war on terrorism.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 640 was introduced on September 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.R. 2276 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the “Corporal Christopher E. Eskelson Post Office Building” (*Kildee, D-MI*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2276 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the “Corporal Christopher E. Eskelson Post Office Building.”

**Additional Background:** Marine Cpl. Christopher E. Eskelson, 22 of Vassar, Michigan was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve’s 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Lansing, Michigan and died on December 28 while conducting combat operations in Anbar province, Iraq.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2276 was introduced on May 10, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on September 20, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 2276 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court; and Article I, Section 8,

Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause, grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the enumerated powers in Article I, Section 8.

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**H.R. 3325 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the “Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office” (*Courtney, D-CT*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3325 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the “Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office.”

**Additional Background:** Marine Cpl. Stephen R. Bixler, 20, of Suffield, Connecticut was assigned to the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. and was killed May 4 while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Anbar province, Iraq.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3325 was introduced on August 2, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on September 20, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 3325 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause, grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the enumerated powers in Article I, Section 8.

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**H.R. 3382 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North William Street in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the “Philip A. Baddour, Sr. Post Office” (*Butterfield, D-NC*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3382 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North William Street in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the “Philip A. Baddour, Sr. Post Office.”

**Additional Background:** According to the sponsor’s office, “Mr. Baddour was a downtown merchant for over 30 years and served on the Goldsboro City Council from 1979 until 1995. During his tenure on the Council, he served as Mayor Pro Tempore and was instrumental in improving the lives of the citizens of Goldsboro. Upon his retirement from the City Council, Mr. Baddour was honored with a key to the city of Goldsboro and a resolution from the North Carolina League of Municipalities for his years of public service. Former Governor Jim Hunt honored him as a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Mr. Baddour dedicated his time and was very compassionate about the community that had given him so much in his youth. He served as director of Wayside Fellowship and was the recipient of the Cancer Society’s Outstanding Crusade Volunteer Award. He was also active in the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts of America. He was a lifelong member of the St. Mary Roman Catholic Church and served as chairman of the Parish Council. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3382 was introduced on August 3, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on September 20, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 3382 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause, grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the enumerated powers in Article I, Section 8.



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**H.R. 3233 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Highway 49 South in Piney Woods, Mississippi, as the “Laurence C. and Grace M. Jones Post Office Building” (Pickering, R-MS)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3233 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Highway 49 South in Piney Woods, Mississippi, as the “Laurence C. and Grace M. Jones Post Office Building.”

**Additional Background:** According to the sponsor’s office, “Nearly one hundred years ago, Dr. Laurence C. Jones took a monumental step toward carrying out his vision of educating African Americans when he founded the Piney Woods School. Jones gained support from donors and educators both black and white, but the main source of encouragement came from his wife, Grace M. Jones, an educator herself. She partnered with her husband to enrich the head, heart, and hands of young black students by teaching domestic sciences and homemaking skills. The Piney Woods School, which still holds true to the principals it was established upon, and its founder embody characteristics that warrant national recognition.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3233 was introduced on July 31, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by unanimous consent on September 20, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 3233 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause, grants Congress the power to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the enumerated powers in Article I, Section 8.

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## **H.R. 1124 — To extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (Davis, R-VA)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1124 scheduled to be considered on Monday, October 1, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1124 would reauthorize, at “such sums” as necessary, the District of Columbia Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG) for five years, through 2012.

**Additional Information:** According to committee Report [110 – 112](#), the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 authorizes funding for D.C. high school graduates who attend college in other states. The Act was initially proposed and adopted in order to address D.C.’s lack of a state university system. The Committee Report states that because D.C. has no university system, residents would be likely to move to surrounding states in order to take advantage of lower tuition rates.

The program, which expired on September 30, 2007, gives grants to DC residents attending the following schools:

- those attending public colleges outside of DC;
- those attending private colleges in DC, Maryland or VA; or
- any historically black college or university.

Scholarships to students attending public schools are capped at \$10,000 per student per year, and at a \$50,000 lifetime limit per person. Private school students receive a \$2,500 maximum annual grant, with a lifetime limit of \$12,500. According to CBO, since its creation, the program has grown significantly and the District has doubled the total number of D.C. high school graduates attending college.

Identical legislation was passed in the House on May 14, 2007, by a vote of [268 — 100](#).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1124 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, held a hearing on the bill on March 22, 2007. On March 27, 2007, the subcommittee held a markup forwarded the bill to the full committee, which held a markup on March 29, 2007, and reported the bill by voice vote. On May 14, 2007, the House passed the bill by a roll call vote of [268 — 100](#). The bill was received in the Senate on May 15, 2007, and was passed by a vote of [96 — 0](#) on September 18, 2007.

**Possible Conservative Concern:** Some conservatives may be concerned that this federally-funded program provides tuition assistance grants only to D.C students, and that a local effort such as this should be funded by the DC government, and not taxpayers across the country. In addition, some conservatives may be concerned

**that the legislation authorizes \$208 million and is being considered on the suspension calendar, and is therefore not open to amendments.**

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to a CBO estimate, H.R. 1124 would authorize \$30 million in FY08, and \$208 million over a five year period. However, CBO also states that costs may very well exceed this amount.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Committee Report [110 – 112](#) cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution, which gives Congress the authority to “exercise exclusive legislation” over the District of Columbia.

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